

Announcements.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Established A.D. 1841.

WATSON'S PRICKLY HEAT LOTION
Is the safest and best cure for Prickly Heat; it affords instant relief, and will be found useful in allaying all irritation of the skin whether arising from acidity or caused by the bites and stings of insects. It is also a useful Toilet Article for the complexion.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, 11th July, 1888.

BIRTHS.
At Shanghai, on the 25th July, the wife of T. HAROLD VALE, of a daughter.
On the 26th July, at No. 2, Seward Road, Shanghai, the wife of B. P. CLOUGH, of a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1888.

Our readers were informed yesterday, that the much debated and strongly opposed European District Reservation Ordinance has obtained Her Majesty's sanction and is now one of the standing laws of the colony. Although we expressed our sympathy with several provisions of this Ordinance while it was being put through the usual stages of analysis and examination on the Council table, we often hinted at the deficiencies of the measure, taken in its entirety. It appeared to us that the Ordinance was not of a sufficiently comprehensive character to remedy the many grievances which the European residents of this colony complain of as regards their habitations, or the sites for their dwelling houses; or, to put it more clearly, it seemed to us that to reserve a certain district of the city of Victoria for the exclusive use and residence of the European inhabitants was not a sufficient measure in itself to relieve the same class of residents of the great cramming nuisance they labour under, of the scarcity of suitable tenements in the colony, and of the natural consequences arising from this state of things—the abnormally high rents landlords and house-owners charge for many of their indifferently built, badly ventilated and otherwise defective premises. That the Ordinance under review might have had some provisions inserted into it to remedy this grievance, or that some Ordinance is urgently required to bring matters to a certain standard of order, as far as our habitations and our rents are concerned, there can be no manner of doubt. Hongkong is fast becoming a city where no dwelling-houses can be found to suit the requirements of its inhabitants. The majority of our residents who derive their means of livelihood from commercial or industrial pursuits, the middle-class people who abound in the colony, and who constitute one of its most important elements, are dealt with by their landlords as if they were so many scions of high-sounding aristocracy or so many budding millionnaires, able and willing to pay princely rents for the mere shanties they often happen to occupy. At home and in all parts of the civilised world there are ample means for residents to lead economical lives even in the centres of wealth and luxury; suburban residences are also to be found there, extremely cheap and immensely comfortable, where people who follow their commercial, industrial or other vocations in the cities, can live and enjoy life according to their means. Life in Hongkong is essentially urban, and as such it is subject to residential conditions which to many, nay, to the majority, are absolutely ruinous. Not only are houses dear, but they are so dreadfully scarce, that in many cases they cannot be had for either love or money. Not only are rents high, but landlords are in the habit of increasing them in a geometrical progression; the older the houses become, the higher rents are demanded; while taxation which is based on rentage, goes on increasing *pari passu*, to the infinite detriment of all the permanent residents. Cannot legislation step in and remedy this state of things? We feel convinced that the local Government possesses sufficient resources, ways, and means, to provide for the better accommodation and the better housing of the European residents of this colony, either within or without their reserved district. Something has to be done to check an abusive landlordism; stringent measures should be enforced to dis-embarrass the house-cramming labour under, to enlarge and extend our building sites, and to render Hongkong a habitable colony, in the strictest sense of the word.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.
LONDON, July 28th.
The House of Commons has read a third time the Local Government Bill.

AUSTRALIA.

The Treasurer of Victoria has introduced his Financial statement. He proposes to reduce the duty on tea to one penny.

(From Straits Times).
PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, July 23rd.
On the second reading of the Bill for the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the charges against Mr. Parnell, the latter denounced the bill as authorising inquiry into the whole working of the Irish agitation. Mr. Gladstone supported Mr. Parnell. The Home Secretary refused to restrict the compass of the inquiry, and the debate was adjourned.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Japanese paper *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* publishes a woodcut showing the appearance of Bandal-san before and after the eruption. Out of a group of four peaks, one—the second highest—has completely crumbled away, while the proportions of another have been greatly attenuated.

PROBABLY in no city in the world is ice in such great demand as in Tokio. It is sent down during the winter in immense quantities from Hakodate and the northern provinces and stored in the capital. To give some idea of the extent of the consumption, we may state that from the 28th of May to June 16th the Tokio Ice Company alone sold 2,511,888 lbs.

JAKOWSKI'S "Erminie," which is to be produced at the Theatre Royal, City Hall this evening, is a comic opera which, judging from its great success in England and America, is to create a very favourable impression here. The music is not its strongest point, but it abounds with humorous situations, being adapted from the well-known comedy "Robert Macaire."

THE Band of the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment will play at the Officers' Mess, Murray Barracks, this evening, commencing at 8 o'clock. The following will be the programme:—

March "Merry March" Scholten.
Overture "Le Diapason" Herman.
Valse "Valse à l'air" Mettler.
Air "L'air de l'opéra" Dostoevsky.
Sélection "La Sonnette" Dostoevsky.
Sélection "Adieu" Dostoevsky.
JOHN MORAY, Bandmaster.

BOILER explosions in Japan occur with alarming frequency. The *Yokohama Shinbun* reports a disastrous explosion which took place on the 18th inst. on board a steamer plying between Hiroshima and Utsunomiya, which resulted in a large number of persons being killed or seriously injured. The Japanese Government will have to strictly enforce the regulations which are insisted on in England and other countries as to the thorough testing of steam boilers and their safe working when on board ship.

THE *Straits Times* says that a telegram from Batavia was received in Singapore on the morning of the 24th inst. stating that the Captain of the British barque *Bryn Gwynn*, with his wife and boat's crew, had arrived safely there, and asking if any intelligence of the other two boats had been received. Captain Crauford, R.N., the Master-Attendant, telegraphed back that both boats' crews had arrived safely at Singapore.

COTTON spinning, an industry which we hope to see established shortly in this colony, is evidently an exceedingly remunerative business in the Land of the Rising Sun. At the half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the Osaka Cotton Spinning Company held on the 17th inst. in the rooms of the First National Bank, at Kabutocho, Nishonbashi, a report was adopted, and carrying forward yen 123,000 to the reserve fund and yen 4,000 to the next account, declared a dividend for the half year of yen 18 per share, or at the rate of 36 per cent. per annum.

THE following Manila news is reported by Singapore papers.—A few days ago Manila was startled and horrified by the report of a terrible occurrence in the village of Antique, near Iloilo. There is anything but a good feeling existing between the race of power and their black-skinned subjects, and the latter never lose an opportunity for provoking their superiors. It seems that the village mentioned is inhabited by several thousands of native inhabitants, but that the only white men were a priest and one other Spaniard, who lived at some distance on his own estate. One day, for no particular reason, the poor priest was attacked by a horde of the inhabitants with the intent of putting him to death. As soon as the other white man heard of his and plight he started off to his defence, carrying his rifle and fifty cartridges. When he arrived at the priest's dwelling he commenced to fire on the assembled crowd. He fired all the charges he had and so good was his luck and aim that every shot told and resulted in the death of one of the besiegers, and so great was the horror which this extraordinary slaughter inspired in the superstitious minds of the enemy, that in a short time they had all fled leaving their late victim, the poor priest, much bruised, but not dangerously hurt. If it had not been for the courage and presence of mind of the one armed European in the settlement, the consequences might have been more disastrous, as had the natives been successful in their cowardly assault on the unarmed priest, the news would have spread like wild-fire, and not only these two white inhabitants of Antique would have been sacrificed, but the thirst for revenge and freedom would have broken forth in greater strength in the neighbouring provinces and led to more bloodshed and misery.

THIS preliminary work for the erection of buildings of the Third National Industrial Exhibition to be opened in Ueno Park, Tokio, in April, 1890, was begun by the Japan Engineering Company on the 16th inst.

GOOD news for the tender sex—we, of course, mean the men. A Bill is to be introduced into the House of Commons which professes to abolish the time-honoured but still abused right of women, to wit, breach of promise actions.

HE was quite certain of success. Patient (to young Sawbones, who is about to cut off his arm)—"Do you think the operation will be successful, Doctor? Young Sawbones—Of course it will. I will have that arm off in less than ten minutes.

THE quantity of tea that arrived at Yokohama from the interior of Japan from the beginning of the season to the 15th inst. is stated at 13,760,000 lbs., of which 12,757,500 lbs. were sold to foreign firms, leaving 1,002,500 lbs. in stock on the date named.

CHICAGO has a new public house ordinance which restricts the location of saloons hereafter to be established, but in no way interferes with those already in existence, and also provides for keeping the front doors closed and the blinds drawn on Sunday. They have a smart crowd as municipal legislators in Chicago.

SAYS the *Japan Mail* of the 21st inst.—The rumour recently published about the earthquake at Asama-yama, simultaneously with the Bandal-san eruption, turns out to be unfounded. The Authorities have received information by telegraph, in answer to inquiries, to the effect that nothing of the kind occurred.

THE "opsimeter" is a new instrument for testing the eyesight. It consists of a mahogany case with two front eyeholes, behind which are two travelling bands mounted on rollers. The bands have holes in which different lenses are fitted, and the person whose sight is to be tested looks through the holes and lenses at printed matter behind.

A POLICEMAN giving evidence against a drunk before the Comanable (N.S.W.) Police Court was asked if he had not had a drink that morning. "No, I am a Good Templar," he replied. A smile of incredulity beamed on the face of the "drunk" as he enquired, "And, pray, how long have you been a Good Templar?" "Since last night," was the solemn reply.

JOSEPH M. Vanderbilt's new cook—to whom he pays £2,000 a year—captured the millionaire's heart with a dish of wild ducks. After slicing all the meat off the bird, Joseph put the balance of its carcass into a press and squeezed every drop of juice out of it. He then cooked the meat over a spirit-lamp on a silver dish, and made its sauce out of concentrated duck residuals.

THE Japanese Government are apparently determined to leave nothing undone in strengthening their Navy to meet all possible requirements. In addition to new ships already contracted for and on the stocks at Kobe and elsewhere, it has been decided that yen 330,000 out of the amount to be raised by the Naval Loan Bonds will be transmitted to the Yokosuka Naval Ship-building Yard, beginning with the present fiscal year, as a special fund for the construction of war-vessels.

MR. BASTO, J., the leading Macao barrister, has been publishing in the *Correio da Manhã* his first impressions of Lisbon and Oporto where he has been lately staying after his tour through England and the Continent. In abridging all his Lisbon experiences into a few heads, he says:—"There are two hobbies predominant at the capital of Portugal, a general rush after appointments in the Civil List, and the uniform use of tall hats among all classes." Even allowing a sufficient margin for the ingenuity of an oriental traveller on his trading European soil for the first time, one cannot forgive Mr. Basto for the childishness of his remarks. He finds Lisbon people too fond of dress and rather inclined to shun a non-existent wealth. Where else are these characteristics more prominent than in old Macao? A beggar in the neighbouring colony will often dress as a well-to-do merchant or a 'Sang-azur'. Further on in his remarks, the neo-traveller has it that 'bureaucracy is the predominant element in Lisbon.' We would ask him to tell us what is the predominant element in which his compatriots live and die in the model colony from which he draws the criterion of his extraordinary comparisons!

THE following cases came before Mr. Wodehouse this morning:—

A coolie named Wong Seung, 30, was charged with house-breaking and stealing a box containing \$20 in money and clothing valued at \$65 on the 28th inst. The complainant, Lan Kin, said he was a trader having a shop in Gilman Street, which he had occasion to leave on the morning of the above date and on returning at 3 p.m. he found the place had been entered and the property taken. Corroborative evidence being given to fix the guilt on the prisoner—a pawn-broker to whom he had taken the things—and himself having no defence, he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

An earth coolie living at Shau-ki-wan was sent to hard labour for 21 days for assaulting another at Quarry Bay with a spade on the 30th inst.

A fisherman named Tsang Aman, 28, was charged by Chow Achin, an accountant, together with others not in custody with assault and robbery on the 30th inst. Complainant said he was walking in Queen's Road West at 8 p.m. when prisoner came up from behind, put his arm round plaintiff's neck, and held him on that way till two other men robbed and beat him. They got a silver dollar, when he was let go, but he ran after the prisoner and saw the police arrest him; was sure he had made no mistake as he saw prisoner's face distinctly by the aid of the gas light. A shopkeeper identified the prisoner as the man he saw running with complainant after him. The accused, in his defence, said he did not run; he was out walking when complainant chased him by mistake. His worship committed the prisoner for trial.

Several carpenters, builders, and ironworkers were summoned by the Inspector of Nuisances for allowing accumulations of filth and rubbish outside their premises on the 30th and 31st inst. and were fined in sums of \$2 to \$10.

ABOUT two months ago the English War office issued a large document printed all over and filled in here and there in writing, also signed and guaranteed correct by a number of prominent strategists and initiated by the leading tacticians of the empire, to the effect that a pane of glass, valued at 6d., having been broken in a drill-shed, the same was to be paid in equal proportions by the 12 companies of Engineers who were stationed in the barracks—about 650 men in all. And yet the British army does not command the respect of Continental nations and is said to be inefficient and behind the age.

In the Free Kirk of Stonehaven recently, the minister the Rev. John Robertson, who has been censured by the presbytery for the plagiarism of a sermon from a paper by Canon Wilberforce, admitted having been guilty of a moral wrong when before the presbytery, but in church he recanted this admission, and read a letter from Canon Wilberforce to the effect that what he had done did not amount to plagiarism, and declared that if the General Assembly did not reverse their finding he would leave the church. There was a scene at this declaration; many of the worshippers wept, and some fainted. The reverend gentleman himself, almost broke down and had to be assisted into the vestry by some of the elders. There must have been some strong whiskey about that morning.

THE *Japan Mail* tells us that Colonel Murata, already celebrated as the inventor of a special kind of rifle for the Japanese Government, has achieved new fame by the invention of a sword. It seems that for some time past military men have been of opinion that the swords hitherto used in this country are too heavy to be wielded with ease by ordinary Japanese soldiers. Encouraged by this success, which crowned his experimenting on rifle metal, some two years ago Colonel Murata commenced to collect and to experiment on various kinds of sword metal, with the result that in February last he produced a weapon which, while less heavy than European swords, cuts far better. The cutting power of Colonel Murata's sword has been tested in various ways. The weapon is said to surpass the blades of even such famous swordsmiths as Masamune and Murasame. There was certainly room for such an invention as that attributed to Colonel Murata. The sword carried by an officer in Europe is an exceedingly mediocre weapon, and that carried by a trooper is worse.

A CORRESPONDENT at Kiukiang, writes to the *N. C. Daily News* under date the 21st inst.:—"Kiukiang was mobbed to-day by some Honan people who are going north with boats loaded with rice—300 boats and about 2,500 men. Of course they smuggle lots of goods in the rice, and the Taotai here refused to let them pass unless they paid the regular *likin*, while they object to pay more than one-third of the regular tax. They came on shore this morning and made a row, pulled down the railings of the Commissioner of Customs' house, broke the windows of Mr. Campbell's ten-room, pulled down trees on the Bund, etc., etc. The *Yuenwo* has been detained in port for a day. The Taotai, who is very anti-foreign, declares that he is unable to control the men, and he has not even sent soldiers for their protection, although, as is well known, there is always a considerable garrison in Kiukiang under a brigadier-general. The riot is nothing serious, but the ladies and the Protestant missionaries have been considerably alarmed. It is very hot here, 103 deg. in the shade and 143 deg. in the sun. We hope to have a blow soon, or it will become intolerable." Under date the 22nd inst. the correspondent adds:—"Since writing last night nothing has happened. The ladies went to sleep on board the *Yuenwo*, and we men spent the night patrolling the concession. It is said that the rice-boats are to be dispatched to-day by the Taotai. This, of course, remains to be seen."

ARRANGEMENTS are being made at the War Office, says a London exchange, for grouping in 19 large brigades all those battalions which, in the scheme of defence drawn up by the Intelligence Department last year, were not appropriated for garrison purposes or the occupation of fortresses and defensive works. It has been decided to form the London infantry volunteers into four large brigades. In the event of mobilisation, Colonel Home, Grenadier Guards, will have under him in the 1st London Brigade the London Rifle Brigade, the 2nd and 3rd London Rifles, the 15th Middlesex, and the Civil Service, Post Office, and Bank of England corps; the 2nd London Brigade, to be commanded by Colonel Wigram, of the Coldstreams, will consist of the Victoria, 4th Middlesex, St. George's, London Irish, 18th, 19th, 21st, and 22nd Middlesex; the 3rd London Brigade, to be commanded by Colonel Stracey, of the Scots Guards, will be made up of the South and West Middlesex Battalions, the London Scottish, the Harrow Corps, the Queen's Westminster, the Inns of Court, the Artists, and two Tower Hamlets Corps; the 4th London Brigade, to be commanded by Colonel Hamilton, of the Royal Engineers, will comprise the two Volunteer Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers, the 3rd, 6th, and 11th Middlesex, and the North Middlesex Rifles, and will be commanded by Major-General Moncrieff. The eight corps of the southern metropolitan county are to be grouped as the Surrey Brigade under Colonel Hamilton, of the Royal Engineers. The Volunteers of the counties of Berks, Bucks, Hertford, and Oxford are to form the Home Counties Brigade, under the command of Lord Wantage, V.C.; the inland districts are to form three brigades, to be designated the North Midland, the South Midland, and the Birmingham; along the western side of England there are to be Manchester, Welsh, Welsh Border, and Western Counties Brigades; the northern counties will form one brigade, and Yorkshire two—east and west; one is to be formed in the eastern counties; and north of the Tweed there will be a Highland and South of Scotland Brigade. In all cases it is desired to appoint to the various commands officers of army training, who are resident in or otherwise associated with the respective districts.

WE are in receipt of the Chinese version of the Imperial Maritime Customs Report issued by the Statistical Department of the Inspectorate General at Shanghai.

THERE is, says the *Straits Times*, every prospect of Brunei becoming a British Protectorate ere long. The *Sarawak Gazette* has been assured on good authority that a formal treaty has been concluded for the purpose between the Sultan of that State and the British Government. When once Brunei comes into line with the States under British protection in this part of the world, the Sultan will find, before long, that his power to act as the caprice of the moment prompts him, has been curtailed. To a despot like him, such a discovery will ever be unwelcome. When this fact dawns upon his mind, the Resident who has to advise him will have to be the right man in the right place.

THE Korean imports and exports for last year, according to returns compiled by that Government, were as follows:—

Exports.....\$ 807,996
Imports.....2,815,441

Total.....\$3,623,437
Of the above amount, \$312,770 were exports and \$1,456,880 imports to Japan; \$399,977 exports and \$659,133 imports to Fusan; and \$98,249 exports and \$699,420 imports to Gensan. Subdividing as to countries, \$18,873 were exports from and \$73,726 imports to Korea from China; \$783,752 exports from and \$2,071,719 imports to Korea from Japan; and \$2,377 exports from and \$10,995 imports to Korea from Russia and Manchuria.

WE take the following from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Shanghai Freight Market Report of July 27th:—Since the publication of our last circular, dated 13th inst., the condition of the home-ward freight market has been extremely quiet, with only a moderate business doing; due in a great measure to the arbitrary proceeding of the Tea Guild in suspending the offerings of Tea till buyers agreed to certain terms relative to Fire Insurance. Negotiations for an amicable settlement are going on between the Taotai and Foreign Consul, meanwhile the Tea trade here is practically at a standstill. The demand for coastwise steamers, for the coal carrying trade from Nagasaki to this, has improved, and suitable craft are enquired after. From Newchwang, and Chefoo for the Southern ports, business is not quite so brisk. The British barque *Kuhardale*, 1,191 tons register, sailed in ballast on the 24th inst. for Iloilo under home charter to load for a port in the Pacific Seas. Quotations per:—Newchwang to Swatow, 10 Mex. cents per picul, steam, small enquiry, Chefoo to Swatow, 13 Mex. cents per picul, small demand. Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.65 per ton of Coal net, for steamers, demand; \$1.30 ex ship, for sailing vessels. Settlement during the fortnight:—British steamer *Glenariff*, 1,410 tons register, Hankow to Odessa, 45s. per ton Tea, despatch. Disengaged vessel in port, *Satsuma*, British barque, 364 tons register.

SINGULAR DRUGGING CASE.

Yesterday afternoon a young carter in Wanchai was charged before Mr. Sercombe-Smith with administering a noxious drug to five other men working in a carpenter's shop in that locality, on the 17th inst. Immediately after taking the supper which contained the drug, the men were taken ill, all became giddy, and finally unconscious, when they were conveyed to the hospital. The case had been remanded at the request of Inspector Hennessy, in order to have the food and vomits analysed. Mr. Wotton represented the defendant.

Mr. W. E. Crow, Government Analyst, said he had examined some fish stew sent to him by the Police on the 18th inst. and found it contained chopped-up particles of a vegetable substance called the flowers of *Datura alba*. He had very common to the island of Hongkong. In a subsequent analysis he made a search for the active principle of the drug, but there was no chemical reaction sufficiently marked to enable him to distinguish it. On handing an alkaloidal extract, which he had obtained, to Dr. Atkinson, it was applied to the eye of a monkey, and within five minutes the pupil became widely dilated. "It was afterwards applied to the eye of a coolie patient, with similar results. In his opinion these experiments proved that the stew contained a poison allied to *atropine*, most probably derived from the flowers of the *Datura alba*. He had never met with a fatal case of poisoning by *atropine* from *Datura* before, but he had, however, known a fatal case of poisoning by *atropine* from *Belladonna*. Witness was not aware if the drug was used, internally, by the Chinese, as an opiate. The corresponding plant in England is used, internally, as a medicine.

Ciu Cheong, a carpenter living at Wanchai, one of the complainants in the case, said that on the 17th inst. defendant came to his shop and said he wanted to see the master. Being a clansman they asked him to stop and take rice. In the course of the afternoon he was seen to go into the kitchen where the 'chow' was being cooked. Defendant said, but did not eat any of the stew, he purposely spit what he had in his basin, and then took some plain rice. As soon as they had finished eating they all became giddy and unconscious, when defendant went out into the street. Complainant on finding himself getting ill went out to him and said "If you know how to use the drug, get something to revive us." Soon after that he became unconscious and was taken to the hospital.

In reply to Mr. Wotton complainant said he suspected the accused because he was the only stranger, and because he had seen him in the kitchen.

After some further evidence the case was again remanded to 2 p.m., on August 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

THE SUNDAY NIGHT BAND PERFORMANCES.

To two Editors of the "Hongkong Telegraph." Sir,—I noticed the other morning in the columns of your paper, a letter concerning the Military Monopolising the seats in the Public Gardens, on Sunday evenings. What may I ask, makes the Gardens more attractive to the Hongkong community on Sunday than on any other evening? My duties every night, with the exception of Sunday, take me through the Gardens and I never saw or met anyone, with the exception of a few Chinese, who seemed more intent on business than pleasure, and I myself have passed the remark that the inhabitants of Hongkong did not appreciate the Gardens as

such a splendid place would be appreciated at home (when I say home I mean England). But the attraction on Sunday evening is a Military Band, and why should the Military be debarré from hearing their own Band playing selections from Operas and the national composers which they never hear in barracks, as the only music they are likely to hear is the Regimental March Past. Myself, I should be ashamed to see a soldier retain his seat if he saw a lady standing, as I saw a gentleman of Hongkong do one night in the City Hall, at the free entertainment given by the Amateur Dramatic Society, when the hall was filled to excess. But the same evening I saw a private of the 8th take the initiative and vacate his seat for the lady in question. If I were in command of the old "Steelbacks" and there were any more complaints regarding Tommy occupying the seats I should certainly deprive the Mashers of Hongkong of the pleasure of hearing good music gratis, and there is no doubt if such should be the case there would be plenty of room on the seats for them to sit and listen to the croaking of the frogs around the fountain.

Yours truly,

TOMMY ATKINS.

Hongkong, 31st July, 1888.

THE WHITE PASHA.

Who is this "White Pasha" who is advancing from the banks of the Upper Nile with a conquering host to subjugate the Mahdi, and to wrest the country of the Soudan from that warlike and fanatical follower of the Prophet? Can it be Stanley? This is the question which is being asked from one end of the world to the other, and very possibly exercising man's minds all the way from eastern Asia to Peru. It is impossible to believe that it is Stanley, equally impossible to think that it can be poor Gordon, whose fate we were never certain of, and highly improbable that Emin Pasha, can have turned his prying hooks into swords with the object of conquering a country against which British troops are nobly laboured in vain. The wild idea is about in some quarters that Stanley has England and the secret object of taking the Mahdi in the rear, and that having reached the banks of the White Nile he has thrown off all disguise and unfurled his battle-flag; that he is advancing upon the Sudan for its conquest. Such notions are equally impossible and betray a total ignorance of nearly all the circumstances of African warfare and of the conditions of the tribes. The natives of equatorial Africa or of Bahr Ghazal, are men entirely unfitted to cope with the Sudanese warriors, and furthermore, have not the ability to transport provisions and munitions of war into a country so distant from their own base. If they were capable of doing this, there is no "White Pasha" who would be so mad as to lead them on to a hope so thoroughly futile, or be so thoroughly ignorant of the little value of the Sudan even to Egypt. What had Gordon to say about this country? Listen! "Dead mournful place this," near Murchison Falls—"with a heavy damp dew penetrating everywhere; it is as if the Angel Azazel had spread his wings over this land. You can have little idea of the silence and solitude, the pouring rains—in the month of July,—the dense jungle, the terrific ravines coming down laterally from the table lands into the deep canon in which runs the river, quite un navigable for boats for any length of time. Weeks of scrambling through a tangled thicket of miles a day, are enough to wear out men with a constitution of iron. The Sudan is a useless possession, ever was, and ever will be so. No one who has ever lived in the Sudan can escape the reflection—'What a useless possession is this land! few men can stand its fearful monotony and deadly climate.' This was General Gordon's opinion, it is that also of the British Government, and of the present ruler of Egypt. Stanley went into Africa principally to search for Emin Pasha, who as far as last April had turned up near Lake Albert, and he sent out a reconnaissance party to look for Stanley. Emin's account of himself was, "All well; good supplies; on best terms with chiefs and people; will be leaving shortly for Khartoum, east of Lake Albert, or for Ullenda." A second message via Zanzibar from Emin advanced the theory that as Stanley should have turned up last December, and had not appeared up to latter end of May, he had bent his steps to the north and was working his way to Wadai, and the head waters of the Makas, Wella and the Muboko countries. True, he might have struck for the White Nile to save his life, but not with a conquering host, for the place indicated in yesterday's telegrams must be fully six hundred miles from Khartoum. Stanley left the Congo he had a distance of 400 miles to traverse before reaching the territory governed by Emin Pasha, which, with ordinary luck, he should have done in 40 days and thus turned up there, amongst friends, in December, fast! It is known, however, that in the country he would have to traverse there were great marshy tracts, if he fell in with them they would occasion a circuitous route. Ah, however, he had not made an appearance since last April, naturally there was now anxiety regarding the famous explorer of the dark continent, who possibly knows better than any living man the utter impossibility of conquering the Sudan with negroes from the interior. There are many wild stories invented by the wandering tribes about Khartoum; these people are always expecting to be attacked by somebody—is this "White Pasha" one of them?

LATE TELEGRAMS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 11th.
Thirty Macedonian brigands surprised Bellova Station and kidnapped two Austrians, a wealthy Bulgarian merchant and two others. The brigands are now in full flight across the mountains, and the troops which have been despatched for their capture are pursuing them.

In the House of Lords last night a conversation took place regarding the infant marriage custom in India; Lord Cross warmly eulogised the action taken by the Rajpootana Princes with the view of reforming the infant marriage custom now prevailing in their provinces.

BERGAD, July 12th.

The Queen of Servia is staying at Wiesbaden in the Prussian province of Hesse-Nassau. Her Majesty refuses to surrender her son Prince Alexander who is a minor of twelve years to the father King Milan, although a process has been issued against the Queen.

BERLIN, July 13th.

The semi-official *North German Gazette*, in a paragraph to-day, advises Queen Natalie to quit German territory forthwith, otherwise the police must support King Milan in obtaining possession of his son.

AMERICAN TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams from San Francisco exchanges were "crowded out" of our yesterday's issue:—

BERLIN, June 27th.

King William opened the Landtag with imposing ceremonies, similar to the Reichstag opening ceremonial, this morning, and I myself have passed the remark that the inhabitants of Hongkong did not appreciate the Gardens as

